

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS****RECEIVED  
CENTRAL FAX CENTER****AUG 11 2006**

Please AMEND claims 1-10 as shown below.

1. (Currently amended) A system for forming containers, in particular containers (2) for food products, ~~characterized in that it comprises~~comprising: a feed station (52a) by which a continuous strip (54) of a forming material is directed along a predetermined feed path (Y); a main reel (54a) rotatable about a relative longitudinal axis (X), from which the strip (54) is decoilable along the feed path (Y); a feed station (4) supplying a single file of tubular elements (2a) generated from the strip (54); sealing means (10) operating on a first open end (2b) of each tubular element (2a) in such a way as to enclose the selfsame first end (2b); at least one wheel movable between a first position of reception of the tubular elements and a second position of alignment of the tubular elements with the sealing means; said wheel being rotatable around an axis which is perpendicular to a transportation direction of the tubular elements in the proximity of the wheel. ~~a conveying mechanism (3) capable of movement between a first operating position of alignment with the feed station (4), from which it receives the tubular elements (2a), and a second operating condition in which the tubular elements (2a) are positioned in alignment with the sealing means (10); and in that the conveying mechanism (3) comprises at least one wheel (11) rotatable in a given feed direction (B) along a sealing path (P) passing adjacent to the feed station (4) and the sealing means (10)~~

2. (Currently amended) A system as in claim 1, wherein the wheel (11) comprises a central hub (12) rotatable about a ~~respective~~ said axis (12a), also a plurality of supporting elements (13) projecting radially from the hub (12) and serving to carry the

tubular elements ~~(2a)~~, of which the supporting elements ~~(13)~~ each present a first end ~~(13a)~~ anchored to the hub ~~(12)~~ and a second end remote from the first end ~~(13a)~~.

3. (Currently amended) A system as in claim 2, wherein each supporting element ~~(13)~~ of the wheel presents a substantially parallelepiped shape matched to the internal geometry of the tubular element ~~(2a)~~, in such a way that each tubular element can be fitted over a respective supporting element ~~(13)~~ with the relative first open end ~~(2b)~~ positioned at the second end ~~(13b)~~ of the supporting element ~~(13)~~.

4. (Currently amended) A system as in claim 2, wherein the sealing means ~~(10)~~ comprise: a first joining head ~~(10a)~~ positioned to interact with the first open end ~~(2b)~~ of each tubular element ~~(2)~~ and serving to unite two opposite sides ~~(14)~~ of the tubular element ~~(2a)~~ coinciding with the selfsame first open end ~~(2b)~~; a press ~~(16)~~ operating downstream of the first joining head ~~(10a)~~, relative to the feed direction ~~(B)~~, by which the joined sides ~~(14)~~ are engaged and directed forcibly toward the hub ~~(12)~~ in such a way as to establish a substantially flat base surface ~~(17)~~ of the tubular element ~~(2a)~~ disposed transversely to the longitudinal dimension of the selfsame element ~~(2a)~~ and presenting two end folds ~~(18)~~ projecting laterally from relative opposite side walls of the tubular element ~~(2a)~~; a fixed fold guide ~~(20)~~ positioned along the a sealing path ~~(P)~~ and downstream of the press ~~(16)~~, relative to the feed direction ~~(B)~~, by which the end folds ~~(18)~~ are engaged, bent toward one another and flattened over the joined sides ~~(14)~~; and a second joining head ~~(10b)~~ positioned to interact with and unite the two end folds ~~(18)~~, thereby completing the closure at the relative end of the container ~~(2)~~.

5. (Currently amended) A system as in claim 4, wherein the first joining head ~~(10a)~~ comprises two folder elements ~~(15)~~ by which the corresponding sides ~~(14)~~ of the open end ~~(2b)~~ are drawn together and the respective top edges ~~(14a)~~ of the sides matched

one to another; also a sealer ~~(15a)~~ operating on the two edges ~~(14a)~~ in such a way as to secure the selfsame edges one to another.

6. (Currently amended) A system as in claim 4, further comprising two restraints ~~(19)~~ positioned in alignment with the press ~~(16)~~, between which an advancing supporting element ~~(13)~~ is insertable in such a way that each end fold ~~(18)~~ will locate against a respective restraint ~~(19)~~ under the action of the press ~~(16)~~.

7. (Currently amended) A system as in claim 6, further comprising two sealers ~~(19a)~~, each positioned in alignment with a respective restraint ~~(19)~~ and serving to seal the end folds ~~(18)~~.

8. (Currently amended) A system as in claim 4, wherein the second joining head ~~(10b)~~ comprises an arm ~~(21)~~ capable of vertical movement and offered to the flattened end folds ~~(18)~~ at a central point ~~(17a)~~ on the base surface ~~(17)~~.

9. (Currently amended) A system as in claim 1, wherein the tubular elements ~~(2a)~~ are prepared by a forming device ~~(5)~~ positioned to coincide with the feed station ~~(4)~~ and comprising: a gripper element ~~(6)~~ ~~such as will bend for bending~~ a blank ~~(7)~~ around a former ~~(8)~~ of shape corresponding to the shape of the tubular element ~~(2a)~~ in such a way that one longitudinal edge of the blank ~~(7)~~ is made to overlap the other; and a feed mechanism ~~(9)~~ by which the tubular element ~~(2a)~~ is advanced along a radial infeed direction ~~(A)~~ toward the conveying mechanism ~~(3)~~.

10. (Currently amended) A system as in claim 1, wherein the tubular elements ~~(2a)~~ are prepared by a forming device ~~(5)~~ positioned to coincide with the feed station ~~(4)~~, comprising a gripper element ~~(6)~~ ~~such as will to~~ engage the opposite edges of a

precreased blank (7) presenting a tubular structure and a substantially flat rhomboidal profile when viewed in section, and thereupon apply a compressive force to the opposite edges such as will cause the flattened profile of the blank (7) to expand to a substantially square profile when viewed in section.